

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
10

11 JOSE LUIS BARRAGAN-CORONA,  
12  
13 vs. Petitioner,  
14 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
15 Respondent.

Case Nos. 11cv2681 BEN  
10cr3405 BEN

**ORDER DENYING § 2255  
MOTION**

16 **INTRODUCTION**

17 Petitioner Jose Luis Barragan-Corona moves pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 for a reduction in  
18 his sentence based on his alien status and challenges to Bureau of Prisons policies which preclude him  
19 from participating in certain pre-release programs. (Dkt. No. 51.) Because, as discussed below, he  
20 waived the right to challenge his sentence and his Equal Protection argument lacks merit, the Court  
21 **DENIES** the motion.

22 **DISCUSSION**

23 **I. Waiver**

24 The Ninth Circuit recognizes strong public policy considerations justifying the enforcement  
25 of a defendant's waiver of his right to appeal or collaterally attack a judgment. *United States v.*  
26 *Novarro-Botello*, 912 F.2d 318, 321 (9th Cir. 1990). Waivers play an important role in the plea  
27 bargaining process and help ensure finality. *Id.* at 322. Generally, courts enforce a defendant's waiver  
28 of his right to appeal, as long as the waiver was "knowingly and voluntarily made" and "encompasses

11cv2681  
10cr3405



1 the defendant's right to appeal on the grounds claimed on appeal." *United States v. Nunez*, 223 F.3d  
2 956, 958 (9th Cir. 2000) (quoting *United States v. Martinez*, 143 F.3d 1266, 1270-71 (9th Cir. 1998)).

3       Petitioner waived his right to collaterally attack his sentence in his plea agreement.  
4 (Petitioner's Plea Agreement § XI.) The plea agreement states that "[i]n exchange for the  
5 Government's concessions in this plea agreement, defendant waives, . . . to the full extent of the law,  
6 any right to appeal or to collaterally attack his sentence . . . unless the Court imposes a custodial  
7 sentence above the high end of the guideline range recommended by the Government pursuant to this  
8 agreement at the time of sentencing." (*Id.*) The Court did not impose a sentence above the high end  
9 of the guideline range. Petitioner's knowing and voluntary waiver of his right to collaterally attack  
10 his sentence requires denial of his § 2255 motion. *Navarro-Botello*, 912 F.2d at 322 (finding a  
11 defendant could not ignore his part of the bargain in a plea agreement after obtaining concessions from  
12 the government).

## 13       **II.     Equal Protection**

14       Petitioner filed the present motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, but his Equal Protection challenge  
15 to the constitutionality of certain Bureau of Prisons ("BOP") policies is better construed as a challenge  
16 to the manner in which his sentence is being executed under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. *See Hernandez v.*  
17 *Campbell*, 204 F.3d 861, 864 (9th Cir. 2000) (per curiam) (instructing that petitions challenging the  
18 "manner, location or conditions of a sentence's execution must be brought pursuant to § 2241"); *see*  
19 *also Montano-Figuero v. Crabtree*, 162 F.3d 548, 549 (9th Cir. 1998) (illustrating that challenges to  
20 Bureau of Prisoners policies are challenges to the execution of an inmate's sentence). Construing his  
21 motion liberally, the Court considers Petitioner's Equal Protection claim under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. *See*  
22 *Zichko v. Idaho*, 247 F.3d 1015, 1020 (9th Cir. 2001) (noting a court's "duty to construe pro se  
23 pleadings liberally").

24       Petitioner claims that the Bureau of Prisons policy preventing him from participating in certain  
25 programs or being housed in certain facilities due to his alien status violates his right to Equal  
26 Protection. However, Bureau of Prisons policies preventing deportable aliens from participating in  
27 certain programs survive constitutional challenge. *Cf. McLean v. Crabtree*, 173 F.3d 1176, 1186 (9th  
28 Cir. 1999) (finding BOP exclusion of prisoners with detainers, including INS detainers, from



